

proposals were approved by the Government; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government for early execution of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Some reasons for projects not being implemented are unfavourable economic conditions in the host country, lack of cooperation among joint-venture partners, financial difficulties, increase in project cost, and inadequate pre-investment preparation. Even though assistance from Indian Embassies is available, execution of venture projects depends largely on the efforts made by the partners on either side.

Supply of Raw Materials to Tribal Weavers in Sikkim

5064. SHRIMATI DILKUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any schemes to provide raw materials to tribal weavers in Sikkim at subsidised rate.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) While there is no scheme for providing raw materials at subsidised rate, there are several schemes of Government of India related to procurement of raw materials and for marketing their products. These schemes

include Share Capital Assistance to weavers of primary societies, grant of Margin Money, to Destitute Weavers, Project Package Scheme, Market Development Assistance Scheme, Publicity and Exhibition and Supply of Raw Materials through National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC). Government also supports setting up of Weavers Cooperative Spinning Mills by providing Share Capital Assistance through the National Cooperative Development Corporation.

Production of Silk

5065. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have urged the State Government to promote sericulture in rural areas,

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government have since modernised the functioning of the Central Silk Board in order to promote silk production;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to take steps to boost the silk production in the country particularly in the State of Rajasthan; and

(f) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). The Schemes for development of sericulture are primarily formulated and implemented by the State Governments. Under sericulture, the prime activities like mulberry cultivation, silkworm rearing and production of cocoons, silk reel-

ing etc. constitute the rural activities. The State Governments have been advised to take steps to integrate their sericulture programmes with rural development programmes. Further, the Central Silk Board advises the State Governments about the modern sericulture practices and encourages them by providing the necessary Research & Development, Extension and Training support. Besides, the CSB arranges supply of mulberry cuttings/saplings to the State Governments at subsidised cost for expansion of sericulture in new areas

(c) to (f). In order to boost the silk production in the country, the Central Silk Board is supplementing the efforts of various State Govts. by providing necessary support through its country-wide network of Research, Extension & Training units. Further, consequent on launching of the World Bank/Swiss assisted National Sericulture Project in the country and introduction of sericulture in non-traditional/new areas, the Central Silk Board has expanded/strengthened additional/supporting infrastructures to meet the requirements of various States including Rajasthan for promotion of silk production.

The details of new units and units strengthened under National Sericulture Project in Rajasthan are as under:-

1. Silkworm Seed Production Centre, Udaipur.
2. Four Technical Service Centres, one each at Jhadol, Dhariwad, Banswara and Garhi.
3. Project area Incharge office at Udaipur.
4. One P2 farm at Fatehnagar (Existing REC converted as P2 farm)
5. One Technical Service Centre at

Kota (likely to be shifted to other location)

6. One Demonstration cum Training Centre at Dabok.

7. One Farmers Training School at Udaipur.

The project envisages development of 2000 acres of land under mulberry plantation for production of 60 metric tonnes of raw silk.

Widening of Howrah-Kharagpur Strech of N.H. No. 6

5066. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to develop and widen the Howrah-Kharagpur stretch of National Highway No. 6?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) Development of National Highways is a continuous process and improvement works are taken up keeping in view the existing conditions of the National Highways, traffic intensity, inter-se priority on All India basis and availability of funds. Seven works amounting to Rs. 762.45 lakhs have been sanctioned for strengthening of the Howrah-Kharagpur section of National Highway No. 6 during the last three years (1988-89 to 1990-91).

In addition, strengthening work from km. 99 to km. 108 has been recently sanctioned during 1991-92. Also technical appraisal for strengthening of reach from km. 34 to km. 37 has been approved.

[Translation]

Production of Silk

5067. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: